

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

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Claims 1-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently amended) A sustained-release, oral pharmaceutical formulation of tramadol, comprising a compound of tramadol hydrochloride and diclofenac sodium, wherein said compound is formed in situ, said compound having a water solubility of  $\leq 100$  mg/ml, and ~~The pharmaceutical formulation according to Claim 14,~~ wherein at least part of the tramadol hydrochloride and at least part of the diclofenac sodium are released at the same rate.

Claims 18-37. (Cancelled)

38. (Currently amended) A method for preparing an oral pharmaceutical formulation, the method comprising:

mixing tramadol hydrochloride and diclofenac sodium to form a mixture;

moistening the mixture; and

repeating the above mixing and moistening steps and

formulating the mixture under an energy input ~~The method according to Claim~~

~~27, wherein the tramadol salt is tramadol hydrochloride and the salt of the acidic substance is diclofenac sodium.~~

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